This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a set of computer-executable instructions to perform a method for generating data, the method comprising:

generating an identical collection of items of data each time the set of computer-executable instructions are executed; ~~and~~

accepting, as a first input, at least one of: (a) data sets and (b) data elements from which synthetic data is generated, said synthetic data having a sequence; and

receiving a seed as a second input to ~~the~~ a deterministic data generation module, the seed indicating a position in the sequence of the synthetic data, the position representing a starting point in the sequence from which the synthetic data is used as input to a process whose performance is to be evaluated, wherein the seed is defined by a user input.

2. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer-executable instructions comprise a computing application.

3. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 2, wherein the computing application comprises a linear congruential generation function.

4. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the seed is set for each discrete data element that may be re-generated.

5. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media in claim 1, wherein the computer-executable instructions operate to generate data in a serial fashion.

6. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer-executable instructions operate to generate data in a parallel fashion.

7. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the method is performed in a database environment.

8. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the first input comprises any of a range of letters, a range of numbers, a range of strings, a range of data sets, letters, numbers, strings, and data sets.

9. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

using a communication means to communicate the synthetic data to cooperating data environments.

10. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 1, wherein the synthetic data is data for use in benchmarking activities having a predefined data schema definition.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for generating data comprising:

providing a deterministic data generation module stored on at least one medium, the deterministic data generation module accepting inputs for processing to generate a data set having synthesized data wherein within the data set each data element has a sequence number, and the data set is organized such that the data is positioned from lowest sequence number to highest sequence number in a sequential fashion; and

providing a seed as input to the deterministic data generation module, the seed acting to position the deterministic data generation module to generate data having a predefined sequence number, wherein the seed value is derived from the predefined sequence number, and wherein the sequence number represents a starting point from which the synthetic data is used as input to a process whose performance is to be evaluated, wherein the seed is defined by a user input.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising communicating the synthesized data to cooperating data environments.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising changing the value of the seed.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, processing the synthesized data by cooperating environments as part of a benchmarking study.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising schematizing the synthesized data according to a predefined data schema definition.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A first system to generate repeatable synthetic data comprising:

a means to generate a deterministic set of synthesized data, wherein each data element of the data set has a sequential number;

a means to seed the generating function to generate data having a particular sequence number that is chosen based on the seed; and

a mechanism to test performance of a second system by providing the deterministic set of synthesized data as input to said second system and measuring behavior of said second system ~~under~~ using said set of synthesized data.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the seed comprises a value in a range from one to the maximum number of data elements of the data set.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, further comprising a communicating means, the communicating means for use to communicate the generated synthesized data to cooperating data environments.

20. (Currently Amended) A method to generate repeatable synthesized data comprising:

executing a deterministic data generation function to generate a data set corresponding to sequential numbers, the numbers associated with a data element of the data set;

setting a seed to act as input for the deterministic data generation function such that the input drives the deterministic data generation function to generate data corresponding to a particular sequential number, wherein the seed is defined by a user input; and

testing performance of a system by providing said data set as input to said system and measuring behavior of said system ~~under~~ using said data set.